

Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)

U.S. Department of the Interior

Bureau of Land Management

Royal Gorge Field Office

3028 E. Main

Cañon City, CO 81212

PROJECT NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-200-2013-081 DN

CASEFILE: RIP#016557

PROPOSED ACTION TITLE/TYPE: Range – Grouse Mtn. Spring Development

LOCATION/LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T16S, R70W, sec. 1 NW1/4 of the NE1/4 Sixth PM, Teller County, Colorado

APPLICANT: James Chapman Jr.

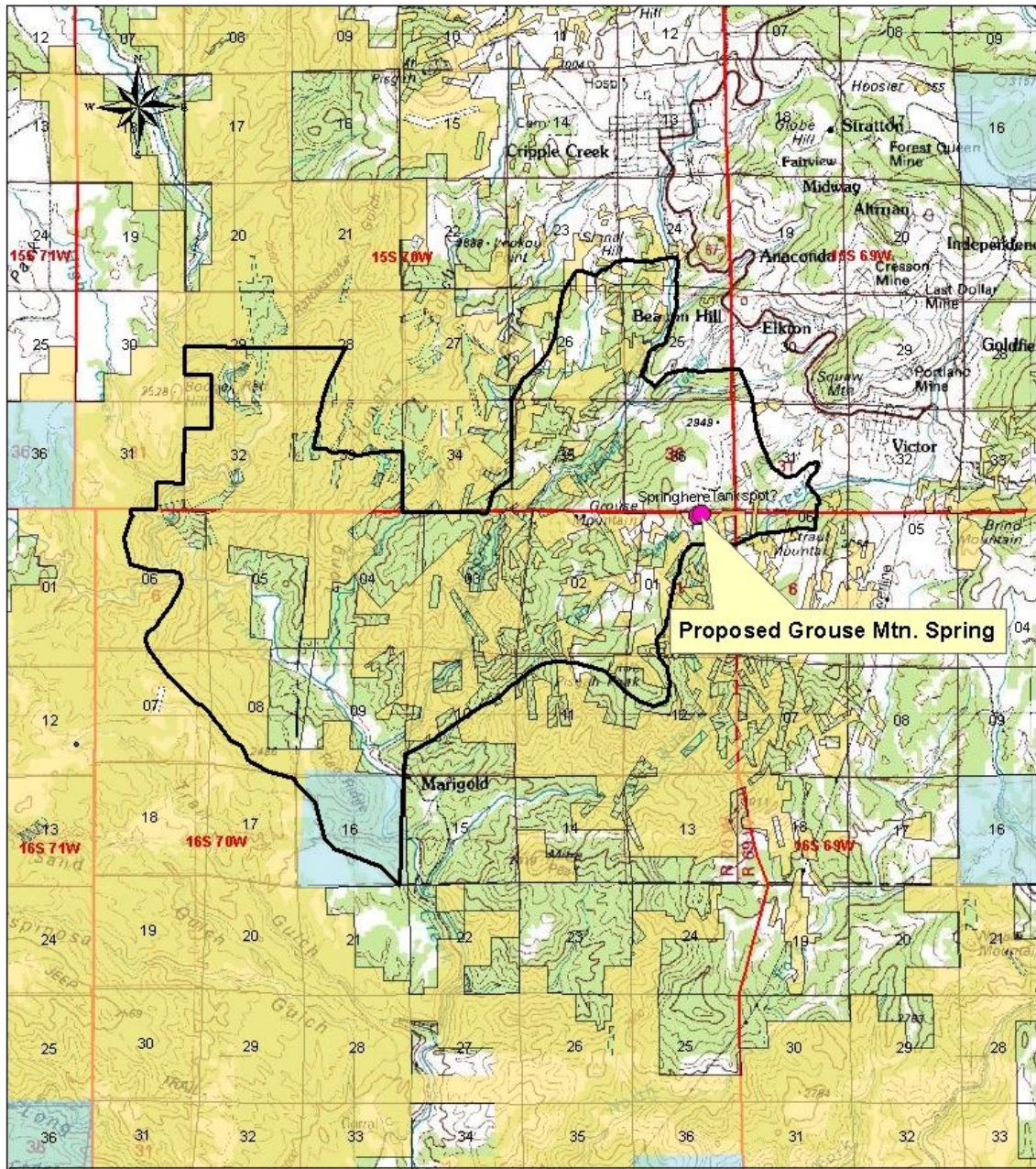
A. Description of the Proposed Action and any applicable mitigation measures.

The proposed action is to authorize the development of a new spring on public land within the Grouse Mtn. Allotment #05069 on the east side of Grouse Mtn. The spring development will be referred to as the Grouse Mtn. Spring Development.

The spring development would consist of a catchment system at the source of the spring, installation of approximately 200 ft. of 1 ¼ “ poly pipeline and the placement of 2 oval 300 gallon water tanks. The water tanks will be placed on the applicants private ground as this is the only flat spot near the spring. Approximately 100 ft. of pipe would be on BLM and approximately 100 ft. of pipe would be on private. If the applicant sells the private property, the tanks will be removed. Access to the Grouse Mtn. Spring Development will occur from the adjacent private property. Travel off of designated roads will only occur for spring construction. The native soil along the pipeline would be replaced, graded and seeded with native vegetation

Currently, livestock water has been limited in the area and this is the only source of water on the east side of Grouse Mtn. This project is intended to promote better livestock distribution on the allotment. This project will allow the permittee to utilize a portion of the allotment that he cannot otherwise use due to the lack of livestock water.

Construction for this project is planned during August of 2013. Funding for this project would be from the grazing permittee. The grazing permittee will be responsible for future maintenance of the project.



LOCATION MAP - GROUSE MTN. ALLOTMENT #05069

- Legend**
- Grouse Mtn. Allotment
 - Bureau of Land Management
 - Private
 - State
 - State, County, City; Areas
 - US Forest Service

Proposed Grouse Mtn. Spring Development

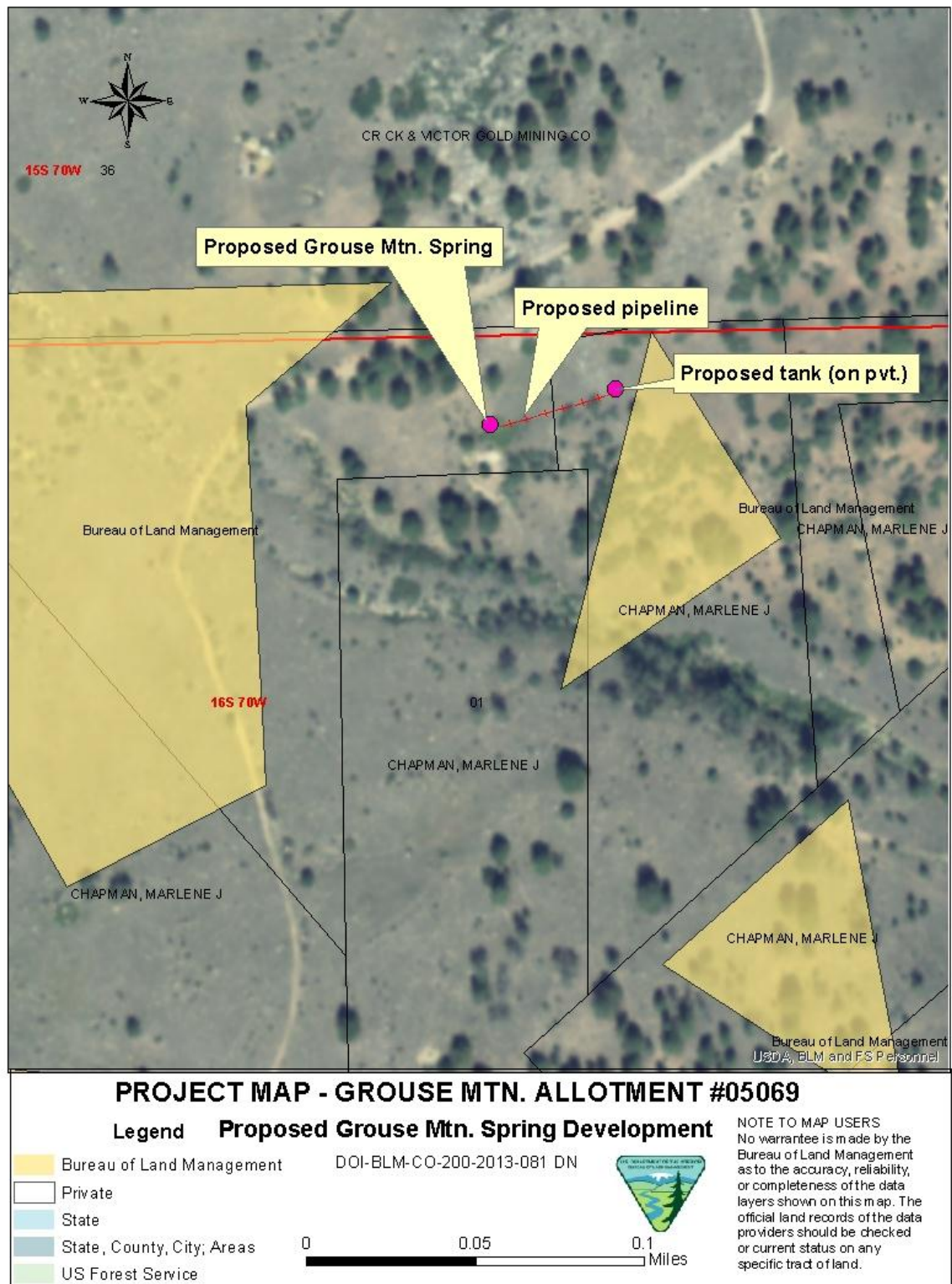
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0 2.5 5 Miles

NOTE TO MAP USERS
No warrantee is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of the data layers shown on this map. The official land records of the data providers should be checked or current status on any specific tract of land.

Please note, landownership layer is not correct.



B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

LUP Name Royal Gorge Resource Management Plan	Date Approved 05/13/1996
Other Document	Date Approved
Other Document	Date Approved

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions:

C-38, Continue to construct range improvements on an as needed basis.

C. Identify applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

Royal Gorge Grazing EIS, April 2, 1980
CO-200-2009-0051 EA Term Grazing Lease Renewal

List by name and date other documentation relevant to the proposed action (e.g., biological assessment, biological opinion, watershed assessment, allotment evaluation, and monitoring report).

Land Health Assessment, September 30, 2001

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the new proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?

Yes. The Royal Gorge Field Office Resource Management Plan (RGFO RMP) states that “BLM will continue to construct range improvement projects on an as needed basis. BLM will complete NEPA documentation on each project as needed.” The RMP analyzed the Royal Gorge Field Office area and grazing allotments therein. This project is located within the Royal Gorge Field Office. There are no other differences. The grazing lease renewal EA (CO-200-2009-0051 EA) covers the site specific allotment.

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the new proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?

Yes. The RGFO RMP contained four management alternatives, and these are identified as: 1) the Existing Management Alternative, which was a continuation of previous management

practices of a mixed level of resource management, utilization and protection; 2) the Resource Conservation Alternative, emphasized resource conservation, providing increased protection for natural resources; 3) the Resource Utilization Alternative provided for utilization, production and development of the natural resources; and 4) the Preferred Alternative that emphasized resource conservation but with moderate levels of development and resource utilization.

The existing EA for permit renewal was conducted in 2009 and continues to be appropriate for current conditions. The EA included a proposed action alternative, which would have provided for any change in grazing or season of use, a no action alternative, that would have continued grazing as previously scheduled and a no grazing alternative. No new environmental conditions or change in resource values have arisen that would invalidate those alternatives analyzed.

3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as, rangeland health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, updated lists of BLM-sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action?

The RMP was concluded in 1996 and the permit renewal EA was done in 2009. The EA covered most recent issues including most recent health standards assessments and T&E species listing. There is no new information or issues that would change what was analyzed and concluded in the existing NEPA documents.

4. Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document?

As discussed in Section B above, the RMP analyzed the need for future range improvement projects. The most recent Term Grazing Permit Renewal CO-200-2009-0051 EA, Sept. 2009, provides analysis and examination of direct, indirect and cumulative impacts of the proposed action. This DNA ensures that the specialists have reviewed and provided remarks below regarding impacts from the proposed action.

5. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?

The views and concerns of the public were actively solicited during the planning process of the RMP. In addition, public scoping was conducted during the planning process of the grazing permit renewal EA. In both cases no grazing or range improvement concerns were identified.

E. Persons/Agencies /BLM Staff Consulted

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM REVIEW			
NAME	TITLE	AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY	Initials/date
Matt Rustand	Wildlife Biologist	Terrestrial Wildlife, T&E, Migratory Birds	MR, 6/25/2013
Jeff Williams	Range Management Spec.	Range, Vegetation,	-----

		Farmland	
Chris Cloninger	Range Management Spec.	Range, Vegetation, Farmland	CC, 6/24/13
John Lamman	Range Management Spec.	Weeds	JL, 06/28/2013
Dave Gilbert	Fisheries Biologist	Aquatic Wildlife, Riparian/Wetlands	DG, 6/25/13
Stephanie Carter	Geologist	Minerals, Paleontology, Waste Hazardous or Solid	SSC, 7/11/13
Melissa Smeins	Geologist	Minerals, Paleontology	-----
John Smeins	Hydrologist	Hydrology, Water Quality/Rights, Soils	JS, 6/27/13
Ty Webb	Prescribed Fire Specialist	Air Quality	mw for TY, 6/25
Jeff Covington	Cadastral Surveyor	Cadastral Survey	JC, 6/28/13
Kalem Lenard	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation, Wilderness, LWCs, Visual, ACEC, W&S Rivers	KL, 7/1/2013
John Nahomenuk	River Manager	Recreation, Wilderness, LWCs, Visual, ACEC, W&S Rivers	-----
Ken Reed	Forester	Forestry	KR, 6/25/13
Martin Weimer	NEPA Coordinator	Environmental Justice, Noise, SocioEconomics	mw, 6/25/13
Monica Weimer	Archaeologist	Cultural, Native American	-----
Michael Troyer	Archaeologist	Cultural, Native American	MDT 6/25/13
Steve Craddock	Realty Specialist	Realty	SRC 7/10/2013
Bob Hurley	Fire Management Officer	Fire Management	BH 7/19/2013
Steve Cunningham	Law Enforcement Ranger	Law Enforcement	-----

Other Agency Represented: Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Arkansas River Habitat Partnership Program, Front Range District Board of Grazing Advisors

REMARKS:

Cultural Resources: No historic properties were found in the area of potential effect [see report CR-RG- 13-158 (N)]. Therefore, the proposed undertaking will have no effect on any historic properties (those eligible for the NRHP).

Native American Religious Concerns: No possible traditional cultural properties were located during the cultural resources inventory (see above). There is no other known evidence that suggests the project area holds special significance for Native Americans.

Threatened and Endangered Species: There are no records of any federally listed or BLM sensitive species within or near the project area. The Proposed Action will not result in impacts to TES species.

Migratory Birds: To be in compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Memorandum of Understanding between BLM and USFWS required by Executive Order 13186, BLM must avoid actions, where possible, that result in a "take" of migratory birds. Pursuant to BLM Instruction Memorandum 2008-050, to reduce impacts to Birds of Conservation Concern

(BCC), no habitat disturbance (removal of vegetation such as timber, brush, or grass) is allowed during the periods of May 15 - July 15, the breeding and brood rearing season for most Colorado migratory birds. The provision will not apply to completion activities in disturbed areas that were initiated prior to May 15 and continue into the 60-day period.

An exception to this timing limitation will be granted if nesting surveys conducted no more than one week prior to vegetation-disturbing activities indicate no nesting within 30 meters (100 feet) of the area to be disturbed. Surveys shall be conducted by a qualified breeding bird surveyor between sunrise and 10:00 a.m. under favorable conditions.

MITIGATION: None

CONCLUSION

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Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of the NEPA.

SIGNATURE OF PROJECT LEAD: Christine Cloninger

SIGNATURE OF NEPA COORDINATOR: /s/ Martin Weimer

SIGNATURE OF NEPA SUPERVISOR: Melissa K.S. Garcia

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: /s/ Keith E. Berger
Keith E. Berger, Field Manager

DATE SIGNED: 11/5/13

Note: The signed Conclusion on this Worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. However, the lease, permit, or other authorization based on this DNA is subject to protest or appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 and the program-specific regulations.